

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. The following is an Examiner's Amendment and Comment following Applicant's response of 5/31/11 and communications with Applicant Representative Atty. Marilyn Khorsandi, Reg. No. 45,744, dated 7/15/11 (*see* attached Interview Summary).
2. In its response of 5/31/11, Applicant amended claims 1, 4, and 10; cancelled claims 2–3, 5–9, and 22–23; and added claims 24–32, which has been entered. Applicant further submitted a declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 as well as an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), both of which are acknowledged and have been considered.
3. Of claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 19–21, 24–32 pending as of 5/31/11, claims 1, 4, 25, and 27 are allowed as amended below.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marilyn Khorsandi, Reg. No. 45,744 on 7/15/11.

Art Unit: 3623

5. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

(Currently Amended) **~~APPARATUS, SYSTEM~~[[S]] AND METHOD[[S]] FOR DETERMINING DELIVERY TIME SCHEDULES FOR EACH OF MULTIPLE CARRIERS**

In the Claims

Please amend claims 4, 25, and 27 and cancel claims 10, 13, 19–24, 26, and 28–32 of the application as follows:

4. (Currently Amended) A method using an Internet-based computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, said Internet-based computer system comprising at least one server computer device, the method comprising:

using the Internet-based computer system, receiving from a client computer through an Internet-access by said client computer of said Internet-based computer system, a delivery schedule information request by a particular user, said delivery schedule information request comprising a first postal code, a second postal code, parcel information and an indication of a shipping date; and

in response to the delivery schedule information request, using the Internet-based computer system to determine[[e]] a simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison, said simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison comprising a plurality of respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedules and corresponding shipping rates for a respective shipment from the respective first postal code to the respective second postal code according to the parcel information and according to the indication of the shipping date, each respective service-specific, carrier specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate corresponding to a particular delivery service

Art Unit: 3623

of a plurality of services offered by each carrier of a plurality of carriers that would ship the particular respective parcel from the first address to the second address according to the parcel information and the indication of the shipping date, each respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate comprising an indication of a respective calendar delivery date and a respective delivery time for a corresponding respective particular delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by a corresponding respective particular carrier of the plurality of carriers to deliver the particular respective parcel from the first postal code to the second postal code according to the indication of the shipping date, said simultaneous potential delivery schedule and shipment rate cross-comparison comprising a respective service-specific, carrier-specific delivery schedule and corresponding shipping rate for each respective particular delivery service of the plurality of delivery services offered by each respective particular carrier of the plurality of carriers that would deliver the particular respective parcel from the first postal code to the second postal code according to the indication of the shipping date; and

in further response to the delivery schedule information request, using the Internet-based computer system to generate an online interactive prompt for display to a display monitor configured with said client computer, said online interactive prompt comprising an interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates for each said particular delivery service, said interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates graphically corresponding to a display of a corresponding graphic indication of the respective calendar delivery date and the respective delivery time corresponding to the respective delivery schedule for the respective particular delivery service to deliver the particular respective parcel, said interactive, two-dimensional, graphic cross-comparison display of each of said respective shipping rates configured to display each respective shipping rate as an interactive field, each said interactive field configured for receiving a selection by the particular user of said respective shipping rate and further configured for responding to said selection with generating a shipping label for print rendering using a print rendering device in communication with said client computer, said shipping label corresponding with shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with said respective shipping rate.

10. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

19–24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The Internet-based shipping management computer system of Claim 1, ~~wherein said online interactive prompt is configured for~~ said at least one Internet-accessible server computer further programmed, alone or in conjunction with one or more server computers, to:

receive[[ing]] an indication by the particular user of a selection of a particular respective shipping rate; and

respond[[ing]] to the indication by the particular user of the selection of the particular respective shipping rate with a printing of a shipping label for shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with the particular respective shipping rate and the corresponding respective calendar delivery date and respective delivery time.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, the method further comprising:
using the Internet-based computer system, receiv[[e]]ing an indication by the particular user of a selection of a particular respective shipping rate; and

using the Internet-based computer system, responding to the indication by the particular user of the selection of the particular respective shipping rate with a printing of a shipping label for shipment of the particular respective parcel using a particular delivery service offered by a particular carrier associated with the particular respective shipping rate and the corresponding respective calendar delivery date and respective delivery time.

Application/Control Number: 09/684,861

Page 7

Art Unit: 3623

28-32. (Cancelled)

Examiner's Comment

6. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, 102(b)—public sale and 103(a) of claims 1 and 4 are removed in light of Applicant's Amendments, Remarks, and Declaration of 5/31/11, which are deemed persuasive as to independent claims 1 and 4.

7. The reasons for allowance can be found in Applicant's Remarks of 5/31/11, especially pg. 12, line 22—pg. 14, line 7, and pg. 14, line 17—pg. 15, line 10.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Art Unit: 3623

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin M. Pats whose telephone number is (571)270-1363. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Boswell can be reached on 571-272-6738. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Justin M Pats/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623